

Message Text

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21/14

ACTION EA-14

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: JA, PINT

SUBJ: RESPONSE TO JCP COALITION PLAN

REF: TOKYO 13622

SUMMARY: DSP, JSP AND KOMEITO HAVE ALL CRITICIZED RECENT JCP DRAFT PLAN FOR COALITION GOVERNMENT, UNDERSCORING DIVISIONS IN OPPOSITION PARTY RANKS AS EACH PARTY SEEKS TO GAIN SUPPORT FOR ITS OWN COALITION PROPOSAL. END SUMMARY.

1. AT OCTOBER 18 PRESS CONFERENCE, DSP CHAIRMAN IKKO KASUGA DENOUNCED JCP PROPOSAL FOR COALITION GOVERNMENT (REFTEL) AS DESIGNED TO CAMOUFLAGE PARTY'S DICTATORIAL CHARACTER BY GIVING PUBLIC IMPRESSION THAT IT HAD ADOPTED "SOFT" POLICY LINE. HE SAID JCP WAS SEEKING TO MITIGATE PUBLIC DISTRUST OF PARTY'S RADICALISM BY MODIFYING ITS TRADITIONAL STAND AGAINST PARLIAMENTARY DEMOCRACY AND EMPEROR IN ORDER TO WIN VOTER SUPPORT FOR JCP IN 1974 HOUSE OF COUNCILLORS ELECTION. HE CHARGED THAT JCP WAS TRYING TO GAIN PRIMACY FOR OWN COALITION PLAN AMONG COMPETING PROPOSALS BY OPPOSITION PARTIES AND TO SEIZE LEADERSHIP IN UNIFIED STRUGGLE TO OUST LDP FROM POWER. KASUGA ESPECIALLY CRITICIZED JCP HANDLING OF SECURITY ISSUE, DECLARING THAT JCP'S PROPOSED UNILATERAL ABROGATION OF SECURITY TREATY WOULD CLEARLY CAUSE DETERIORATION

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IN US-JAPAN RELATIONS, IMPACT SEVERELY ON JAPAN'S ECONOMY AND

WELFARE OF ITS PEOPLE AND CAUSE JAPAN TO BECOME ISOLATED FROM OTHER ASIAN NATIONS. HE DISMISSED JCP PROPOSAL AS NOTHING MORE THAN IDEOLOGICALLY-MOTIVATED IMPRACTICAL THEORY. HE ALSO NOTED THAT JCP CALL FOR SCALING DOWN OF JSDF WAS, IN EFFECT, RECOGNITION OF JSDF STATUS AND IN CLEAR-CUT CONTRADICTION TO JCP POSITION THAT FORCES WERE UNCONSTITUTIONAL. THIS POSITION ON JSDF AND PLEDGES TO SUPPORT CONSTITUTION, WHICH JCP DETERMINED TO BE TACTICALLY ADVANTAGEOUS, KASUGA SAID, UNDERSCORED OPPORTUNISTIC NATURE OF THAT PARTY.

2. JSP CRITICISM OF JCP COALITION GOVERNMENT PLAN WAS SET FORTH IN OCTOBER 18 "SHAKAI SHIMPO" ARTICLE, WHICH SAID JCP PROPOSAL PLACED EXAGGERATED EMPHASIS ON ANTI-SECURITY TREATY, ANTI-U.S. IMPERIALISM POLICIES AND DID NOT OFFER CLEAR PRECEPTS FOR DEMOCRATIZATION OF NATION'S ADMINISTRATIVE AND ECONOMIC STRUCTURES. ARTICLE ALSO SAID JCP PLAN FAILED TO DEAL APPROPRIATELY WITH SITUATION IN WHICH JAPANESE WORKING PEOPLE FOUND THEMSELVES AND OFFERED NO USEFUL GUIDELINES AS TO HOW SOCIALIST PARTIES SHOULD GO ABOUT RESPONDING TO THEIR LEGITIMATE DEMANDS. ARTICLE ADDED THAT WHILE DESTRUCTION OF SECURITY TREATY SYSTEM WAS IMPORTANT OBJECTIVE OF ANTI-MONOPOLY, ANTI-LDP STRUGGLE, IT WAS NOT SOMETHING WHICH COULD BE ACHIEVED SIMPLY BY UNILATERAL DIPLOMATIC NOTIFICATION AS PROPOSED BY JCP. "SHAKAI SHIMPO" ARTICLE FURTHER POINTED OUT THAT SINCE JCP PLAN MADE OPPOSITION TO SECURITY TREATY CONDITION PRECEDENT TO PARTICIPATION IN COALITION GOVERNMENT, DSP WAS EFFECTIVELY EXCLUDED AT OUTSET. THIS, JSP PAPER SAID, WAS "PROBLEM".

3. KOMEITO SECRETARY GENERAL JUNYA YANO TOLD OCTOBER 12 PRESS CONFERENCE THAT JCP PROPOSAL WAS, IN FACT, SIMPLY ONE MORE STEP TOWARD REVOLUTION WHICH COMMUNISTS SOUGHT TO REALIZE. HE SAID THAT JCP APPEARED TO HAVE TONED DOWN ITS TRADITIONAL STAND IN PROFFERED COALITION SCHEME, BUT IT WAS STILL EVIDENT THAT JCP WOULD MUTILATE ESSENTIAL POINTS OF CONSTITUTION IF IT CAME TO POWER. YANO SAID IT WOULD BE NECESSARY TO KEEP ULTIMATE JCP OBJECTIVES IN MIND WHEN DEALING WITH THAT PARTY.

4. COMMENT: SKIRMISHING AMONG OPPOSITION PARTIES OVER COMPETING CONCEPTIONS FOR COALITION GOVERNMENT IS WELL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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UNDERWAY. SINCE JCP GENERAL COALITION DRAFT PLAN WAS PRO-

MULGATED, JSP AND DSP HAVE ALSO PUBLISHED OWN PROPOSALS (TO BE REPORTED BY SEPTELS). AS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED, OPPOSITION PARTY MEMBERS CONCEDE PRIVATELY THAT REALIZATION OF COALITION GOVERNMENT IN NEAR FUTURE IS WILL-O-THE-WISP. YET, BECAUSE THEY BELIEVE CONCEPT HAS POPULAT APPEAL, ALL OPPOSITION PARTIES ARE SEEKING TO EXPLOIT IT AS POTENTIAL VOTE-GETTING DEVICE.

THIS IS HAZARDOUS ENTERPRISE, HOWEVER, BECAUSE IT ALSO UNDER-
SCORES DIVISIONS WITHIN REFORMIST RANKS. FOR EXAMPLE, IT CAN
BE ARGUED THAT ONLY REAL RESULT OF JCP PROPOSAL SO FAR HAS BEEN
TO STIMULATE CRITICISM BY WOULD-BE COALITION PARTNERS
INDICATING EXPLICITLY OR IMPLICITLY THAT THEY DON'T TRUST
COMMUNISTS.

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